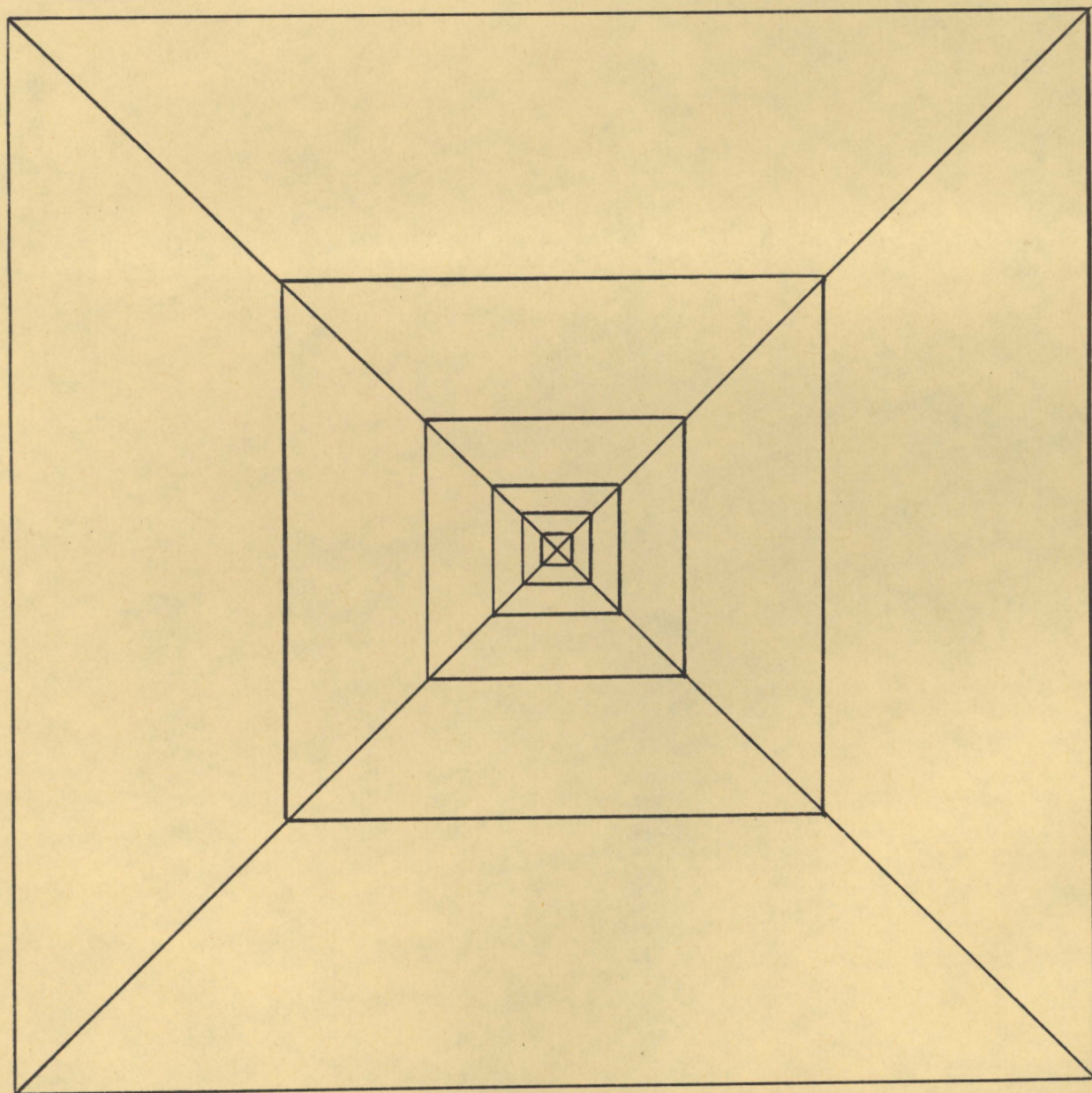


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Editorial.

by H. Griesberg & K. Basterfield.

At UFOCON 5 held in Canberra last year, Colin Phillips of UFO Research (QLD) reminded us that there have been many fascinating close encounters within Australia in the past. If we were asked to name some of the more interesting cases we would include the following:

9 June 54, Dandenong VIC - Two teenage girls reported observing a cylindrical object 20 metres away from them.

22 April 55, Tintinara SA - A metallic silver sphere paced a motor car.

13 March 59, Purnong landing SA - An illuminated dome resting on the ground was observed at close range by two men.

15 February 63, Moe VIC - Two farmers watched a thick grey disc moving soundlessly.

24 May 65, Eton Ridge QLD - Three men noticed a strange luminous "machine" hovering near the ground.

19 January 66, Tully QLD - A blue-grey object rose from a lagoon area where a 10 metre circle of dead reeds was later found.

One problem which presents itself is that unlike today when one can request a copy of an interesting well documented case from the ACUFOS Central Library, the details of old cases are scattered far and wide. Many are known to us only from a brief article which appeared in a current UFO magazine, others are practically hearsay.

A few were quite well documented but with the passing of time the whereabouts of the investigator's report has been lost.

One project arising from discussions at UFOCON 5 was the collection of documentation on Australia's ten best UFO events. It is intended to collect and publish the best material available for all to share and be aware of. To do this we appeal to researchers and groups to peruse their files and to come forward with material which has not been widely published especially cases of great interest and particularly if they are of the calibre of those listed above. Items may be directed to ACUFOS P.O. Box 546 GOSFORD NSW 2250.

Lobbying: Some Personal Thoughts

by John Prytz.

Much ado was made at UFOCON 5 (Canberra, ACT 1980) about isolating and documenting the ten best UFO cases/reports in Australasia. The idea behind defining such a portfolio of UFO evidence was that it would provide some high caliber ammunition for ufologists to present to some undefined powers-that-be the reality that the "UFO problem" was indeed a problem - a scientific mystery of the first order, which those undefined powers-that-be should take with a degree of seriousness. The benefits, although not stated clearly, are fairly obvious.

What was not stated, but contemplated and implied, was the use of this document as a focal point in a traditional lobbying effort, in this case for and on behalf of the UFO phenomena. Also left hanging in mid-air was how this lobbying activity was to be conducted.

Over the last couple of years, the author has gained some first-hand experience in the "how to" of lobbying for a cause. Although this goal had nothing to do with the UFO problem, the principles involved could well apply toward that area of activity. In the author's particular case, the final goal was not attained - yet. However, many intermediate goals/objectives were realised, so one could not argue the lobbying was totally unsuccessful. Since some degree of success did come to hand, the experiences and methodology learned - the hard way via the seat of the pants - will be passed on (for what it is worth) along with what the prospective lobbyist can expect (in a general sort of way) before trodding the same path.

Although it is impossible to state a formal methodology; list of "do's and don'ts", as each case is of course unique, some guidelines do suggest themselves, and for the most part concern themselves with the traditional "who, what, where, when & why". I would add to that "will" by the way! Most of those questioning words will need answering before you even start.

A logical first question which needs to be answered is "what" are you lobbying for? "What" do you want? This must be set out in detail, not in vague and general terms. Further, "what" resources (time, money, equipment, manpower, space, etc) will be required to the best of your knowledge? "What" are the odds of success if you attain what you are asking for? "What" benefits are likely to accrue? Be prepared to argue "what" the gains are for those who you will lobby and defend against "what" is in it for you!

You must decide in advance "who" to lobby. Is it going to be political figures? If so, local, state, national and/or international politicians? Will it be both Government and Opposition, or one only? Will it be blanket coverage or select individuals? Will you start at the bottom (back benchers) or shoot straight for the top? Will the lobbying be via letter, petitions, personal audiences or a possible combination of these?

Perhaps it will be scientific, business, and/or community organisations. If so, local, national or international? Private or government bodies? The organisation itself or individuals within that organisation(s)?

Lobbying activities can be carried out via the media. Should you seek coverage through newspapers or journals? Should you seek out particular well known journalists or try for "pot luck"? Will you present your case through letters to the editor, articles (either submitted yourself or through a professional journalist writer), or via press statements. Will you seek out personal interviews? Should you concentrate on local, national or even international media avenues? Should you try for coverage via the electronic media (radio and/or television) in addition or as opposed to the print media? Maybe you should advertise your case to insure getting your case within the public's eye, scientists eye, politician's eye, etc.

Perhaps the "who" will be in various combinations, where each positive response/result will be played as an extra selling point for unapproached or uncommitted "who's". Interplays between the political, scientific and public (media) arenas can clearly demonstrate that the total is indeed more than the sum of the parts!

"Where" is the goal directed? Will it be local, state, national, 100% foreign or international? The "what" and "who" partly determine the "where" as resources

May be beyond the means of an area or otherwise restricted in a geographical sense, and "who" (in particular a political figure or organisation concerned) also defines a "where" (just as the "where" can define "who" to lobby).

Speaking of "where", it can always be good policy to play on local, state, or national pride, in particular where politicians are concerned.

"When" is another term you must address. Is your goal short term, long term, or on-going? Can it be done anytime? Is it time restricted? Is there urgency? How long will the project you desire take?

Most important perhaps is "why". "Why" should "who" you lobby do what you wish them to do? What will be accomplished or could be accomplished that will not otherwise be the case? Will the accomplishment, if realised, be of pure or applied benefit? The answer to that question can influence "who" you lobby.

And while on questions of a "will" nature, ask yourself "will" your goal happen irregardless of lobbying? If so, save your time, money and energy.

"Will" the benefits, resources needed, etc. be what I say they will? That brings up the point of personal credibility. You must establish your personal credentials and not be afraid or too shy to flog them. Sell yourself as you would try to do in a job interview! A rotten salesman with a superior product does worse than a superior salesman with a rotten product! Therefore, you must especially exhibit the powers of self-conviction in your beliefs before you can convince the powers-that-be that they should share the same degree of enthusiasm. Establish that if you were they, you wouldn't hesitate for a moment to jump into the pond feet first and fully clothed. Be as enthusiastic as you really are - and you must be enthusiastic if you follow through a lobbying effort - but don't overdo it and lead one to question your sanity and/or honesty! There is always a fine dividing line! Attempt where possible to obtain personal audiences. Anyone can bullshit on paper, but it takes a master to do it face to face, and that cuts both ways!

Selling yourself, hence your beliefs and goals, is not of course to say the product is not important! The credibility of the product is of the utmost importance! Hence, in the case of UFOCON 5, there is a need to establish and document the "best of the best".

Further, if possible, show that you are not lobbying for a precedence; that whoever you are asking to stick their neck out on your behalf won't have been the first to either attempt and/or argue on your behalf the particulars that turn you on. Use whatever psychological weapons are at your disposal! In short, play politics.

Finally, whether through letters, phone calls, personal visits and interviews, demonstrations, articles etc., be prepared for:

A) failure (partial or total); b) disappointment; c) broken promises; d) a lack of the degree of interest and enthusiasm you personally have and feel within those you approach; e) many hours of work; f) many personal dollars committed toward your goal; and above all g) probably little or no thanks from those who on the surface share your goals except when it comes down to the "nitty-gritty"!

If you are prepared in advance for the above, you are already well down the pathway to a rewarding (at best) and educational (at the least) experience. The odds are stacked against you before you start! Why? Because as Mark Twain once stated "when it's steamboat time you steamboat"! If you have to even contemplate an engagement in lobbying, then it's not "steamboat time" yet. Only efforts akin to your's will make it "steamboat time". Therefore, you may as well think big and reach for the sky. You have only the status quo to lose (which is nothing - otherwise you wouldn't lobby) and everything to gain.

Ten Reasons for studying UFOs.

by Mark Moravec.

1. To find out if there is intelligent life in the universe and if it is visiting us.
2. To advance our technological and scientific achievements by studying the physical aspects of UFOs such as possible propulsion systems, electromagnetic effects and physical traces.
3. To advance our understanding of the human mind by studying the psychological effects of UFOs on human beings.
4. To advance our understanding of human group behaviour by studying UFO cults and social movements.
5. To find out if the UFO phenomenon is altering or directing the course of human history by its intervention in our affairs; and to determine the potential social, cultural, political, religious and economic implications of such an intervention.
6. To advance our knowledge and application of human medicine by studying the physiological effects of UFOs (such as apparent injuries and healings) on human beings.
7. To advance our understanding of extrasensory perception and other paranormal phenomena by studying the paranormal aspect of UFO reports.
8. To put at ease the fears and anxieties of UFO witnesses by providing an explanation of the experiences they have undergone.
9. To advance our understanding of the universe by looking at the way UFOs challenge our current conceptions of reality.
10. To develop new methodologies for the scientific study of elusive, short-lived phenomena.

An Extraordinary Incident - Or an Extraordinarily Poorly Investigated Event?

by Keith Basterfield.

Whilst re-reading "Flying Saucers: the startling evidence of the invasion from outer space" by Coral Lorenzen I came across an Australian event which I'd heard of but never bothered to look at before, as I'd considered it a "classic" incident - a UFO beyond a doubt. However upon reading the details concerned, a nagging doubt crossed my mind and I researched the event a little further. The incident occurred on 15 July 1965 at Canberra airport. The Lorenzen account (1) presents the usual details one hears of the event in various sources so it is reproduced here:-

"On July 15 press wires carried the details of the sighting of a mysterious glowing object which hovered near Canberra airport in Australia while the US Mariner space probe was taking pictures of Mars. Press reports said that Canberra officials were 'baffled'. The object, spotted by air traffic control officers and other expert aircraft observers at 10.50 p.m. hung suspended at about 5000 feet for 40 minutes. When an Air Force plane was sent out to identify it, it zoomed out of sight. In the initial account the wire services said that the experts were quoted as "wondering" if it was coincidence that the object was sighted shortly before nearby Tidbinbilla tracking station was scheduled to pick up Mariner signals. The station the report said, had 'unusual difficulty' in locking on to Mariner at the time."

From this account one imagines a nocturnal light suspended at 5000 feet, the height being radar determined, which left when an Air Force plane intercepted it.

Contemporary Australian newspapers carried more details of the event. The "Age" Melbourne of 16 July 65 reported:-

"An unidentified flying object was sighted by eight people from Canberra airfield yesterday morning. The silver metallic object was seen by civil aviation officials from the airfield control tower.

A spokesman said the object was first seen at 10.55 a.m. and remained visible

in the northern sky until 11.15 a.m. when it disappeared. He said it appeared to be hovering at an unknown height. However it remained for the 20 minutes at an elevation of between 20 and 30 degrees from the ground.

DCA and RAAF officials were unable to give an official explanation of the sighting. The eight people who saw the object were not available for comment."

The Australian of 16 July 65 commented:-

While Earth was looking at Mars, somebody from out there could have been looking at us. An unidentified flying object was sighted over Canberra airport yesterday morning, and that put it in a position to eavesdrop on Tidbinbilla. It was described as a metallic silvery object, hovering in the sky to the north-east at an elevation of between 20 to 30 degrees. Air Traffic Control staff in the main control tower spotted the visitor about 11 a.m. The officer-in-charge of civil aviation at the Airport, Mr. A.B. Lindeman saw it too. So did Flt. Lt. Weston, the RAAF Base Operations Officer. But the first was an air traffic controller, Mr. Tom Lindsey. He was scanning the sky to the north-east looking for a light aircraft due in from Bankstown. Another controller, Mr. A.F. Frodsham said it hung in the sky for about 40 minutes. He said it could have been reflection from an aircraft. But there were no planes departing from Canberra at the time nor was there any record of other aircraft in the area.

Mr. Lindeman said there were definately no civil aircraft in the area at the time. "I don't know what it was - your guess is as good as mine."

Said Flt. Lt. Weston: "It's hard to say whether it was stationary. At one time it seemed to be approaching us but I'm not Sure."

He had never thought seriously about flying saucers before, but he supposed they were possible. "There must be a reasonable explanation for it, but I wouldn't like to hazard a guess."

Mars paying a return visit? Perhaps."

From these two newspaper accounts we get a different picture than from the Lorenzen account. The event as now perceived is one of a daylight object of a metallic coloured appearance, stationary in the NE sky at about 11 a.m. at about 20-30 degrees elevation. After about 20-40 minutes it 'disappeared' but we don't know the exact manner, i.e. whether one look it was there the next it was gone, or whether it moved off and was then lost to sight.

The one thing which we can apparently be certain about is that it was not an aircraft or a reflection from an aircraft. Note that there is no indication of the height of the object nor radar confirmation of its existence. It is disappointing not to be able to find a well documented and well investigated version of the event because in reviewing the case one only has the existing information to go on. However even with this limited data there is one conventional contender which should have been considered at the time but apparently was not.

According to my rough calculations, at 11 a.m. on 15 July 1965 at 30 degrees, NE of the Canberra airport would have lay the planet Venus! Just where the object is recorded as being observed. Is there any reason to believe that the object was in fact the planet Venus?

The answer is a resounding yes! The object was first picked up by an air traffic controller "scanning" the skies looking for an aircraft. It wasn't apparently anything other than a point source in the sky and wasn't generally viewed by hundreds of people. Venus is difficult to see during the day and is usually picked up by chance. Once picked up other people can then have it pointed out to them. The object had the characteristic "metallic" silver so reminiscent of Venus seen during the day.

The object was apparently stationary. Venus moves at about 15 degrees an hour so unless people viewing it are lined up with a nearby stationary object they will believe it to be roughly stationary. There could be a variety of reasons why Venus might be lost to view. Changing weather conditions e.g. haze (no weather details are given in the reports), could obscure the planet or quite simply in the glare of the Sun once a person looks away they might not have been able to find it again. If a RAAF pilot did in fact go aloft, looking for a point source in the sky whilst flying a plane isn't the easiest thing to do. If he didn't see the object (and the stories from the papers

don't say a plane went up), then the story from the ground might be that they were watching the object, took their eyes off it to look at the plane and then couldn't find the object again.

Overall, I believe that the 15 July 1965 Canberra event was extremely poorly investigated at the time and could well have been the planet Venus although we will probably never be sure now. Over to anyone who might like to do an in-depth investigation. I'd like to be proved incorrect but don't think I am.

NOTES:

- (1) "Flying saucers the startling evidence of the invasion from outer space"
Coral Lorenzen, Signet, NY 1962, page 233.

The 1965 Canberra Airport "UFO"/Mariner IV myth.

by Bill Chalker

On thursday July 15th 1965, a "glowing white spot" observed in the sky over Canberra, by Fairbairn airport tower personel elicited world-wide controversy. Particularly so, when at about the same time, nearby the space tracking station at Tidbinbilla experienced some difficulty in locking onto the signal of the Mariner IV probe then orbiting Mars; before long the following story was on the wire services.

"Experts are now wondering if it was a coincidence that the object was sighted shortly before nearby Tidbinbilla tracking station was scheduled to pick up Mariner's signals. The station had unusual difficulty in locking onto Mariner at the time".

Several American writers took this story even further with the net result being the suggestion that the UFO observed that day near Canberra, had somehow affected the Mariner IV signals and had in turn substituted images remarkably like those of the surface of the moon. The rationale of this line of reasoning was that the UFOs were preventing Earth from learning the secrets of the planet Mars.

But upon close inspection this whole story falls apart. The airport tower personel did indeed watch a bright white light in the NE sky between 10.55 a.m. and 11.55 a.m. It appeared to be stationary throughout this observation. Among the emotive descriptions reported in the press of the day, were descriptions that should have certainly suggested a mundane cause: Mr. A.B. Lindeman, the officer in charge of Civil Aviation said: "To me it looked like a circular light without any beam. It wasn't a pinpoint - you didn't need binoculars to see it.

.....Whatever it was it was not a regular phenomenon. A bright planet is the only possibility."

Mr. Paul Todd, based on the airport tower as a meteorological bureau officer said: "To me the light looked like a steel disc revolving so that it caught the sunlight. Then when it lost the sunlight it would disappear completely. The only queer thing about it to me was that we were all looking into the sun as well".

The stimulus for the sighting is quite apparent when one considers the statement of Dr. B.E. Westerlund of Mt. Stromlo Observatory when he said that if the light was in the NE it was certain to be Venus. The media compounded the problem by introducing spurious information. For example the "Sun" mentioned how "although travelling rapidly (the UFO) was seen for 20 minutes." They also mentioned that the object was "hovering" in the northern sky. These errors would affect an investigation designed to elucidate the nature of the light but they pale into significance with the exotic version "saga" magazine carried. Describing the operation at Tidbinbilla, the author - John Keel - indicates:

"Then something went wrong! The signals from the hitherto perfectly operating satellite were being jammed! The technicians at Tidbinbilla sealed in their mammoth control rooms, frantically jabbed at switches and twirled dials. Something was amiss. But what? A desperate check of all the equipment indicated that everything was in order.

A few miles away at the Canberra airport, 6 men in the traffic control tower were facing another puzzle. A strangely glowing metallic object was hovering about 5,000 feet overhead. It was plainly visible to everyone on the ground - and no-one could identify it. The men in the tower placed a series of phone calls. One of them was to Tidbinbilla. Reporters at the tracking station went outside for a look. They could see the thing too, and some of them allegedly took photos of it. (Although these photos were mentioned in the wire stories, none of them was ever released) then an Air Force plane was sent up to identify the object. As the plane neared it, the thing simply disappeared. And once it was gone, the signals from Mariner IV began to pour into the tracking station."

The story goes on, dripping with conspiratorial intent, involving considerable literary licence in the presentation of purported fact. Reality is somewhat removed from these versions. It appears that the "UFO" was in fact Venus, which at the time would have been prominent in the NE sky. Many people do not realise that Venus, usually associated with the label "the evening star", can on occasions be seen during daylight hours. Its daylight appearance has on many occasions led to low-weight "UFO reports" (e.g. Taree 1972). Atmospheric conditions such as haze would have made the planet look like an opaque disc, and the shimmering reported by the observers could have been accounted for by shifting of a bank of haze. All confirmed accounts indicate the "UFO" was stationary. As for the "ominous effect" on the Mariner IV signals, the facts will show the spurious nature of this claim. The alleged "delay" did not take place during the sighting period (10.55 am - 11.15 am) but occurred after that period namely at about 11.35 a.m. Tidbinbilla was scheduled to "acquire" Mariner's signal at 11.35 a.m. Shortly before its re-emergence Pasadena control sent 5 different predictions as to the point at which Mariner would re-emerge. The final one which arrived 5 seconds before Mariner IV was due to reappear proved successful, but Tidbinbilla did not get a firm fix and made contact on a "sideband". Because of this it did not receive the full scientific information from the spacecraft. This contact had to be broken and a "fix" had to be re-established. An hour later, Tidbinbilla was preparing to lose Mariner contact as the probe was scheduled to move below the Martian horizon. Tidbinbilla should have lost the signal at precisely 12.24 p.m. when it was scheduled to pass behind Mars for 52 minutes, 32 seconds. Instead something caused the Mariner craft to slow down from its 11,500 mph. The probe took more than 7 minutes (7 minutes 12.4 seconds to be precise) before it finally did pass out of range. When it then reappeared, it was some 8 minutes late. Neither of these delays were coincident with the Canberra Airport personnel and the cause of the latter effect (which may have been due to planetary gravity) does not concern us here.

This affair cautions us to tread very warily in any investigation. Media distortion must always be kept in mind with such volatile situations. Just as Allan Hendry's excellent book, 'The UFO Handbook' indicates things are not always as they seem.

References:

"Sun" Thursday July 15 1965 pg.11, Daily Telegraph, July 16 1965, Canberra Times, July 16, 1965, "Sun-Herald", July 18, 1965. "Sydney Morning Herald", July 16, 1965. "The Sun", July 20, 1965. AP (Canberra), "saga" see Pix People, pg 32, June 24 1967. See also "Sun" July 20, 1965 and "SMH" July 21, 1965 for details of further Canberra reports of July 19 and 20. Several UFO books including "Flying Saucers-Here and Now" by F. Edwards" & "Flying Saucers are Hostile" by B. Steiger & J. Whritenour have unfortunately perpetrated this UFO/Mariner myth.

Selecting the Best Australian UFO Casesby Michael Hough, PhD.

One resolution at UFOCON 5 (Canberra 1980) was that ACUFOS gather documentation on the best Australian UFO cases, inspect this data and compile a document. ACUFOS investigators could then concentrate on these cases (when time is available for retrospective investigation) - thus maximising new knowledge about UFOs. This document could then be produced in support of research grant proposals.

It was agreed that selection of the best cases be based on the following guiding principles:

1. The UFO event happened within Australia or an Australian territory, or in nearby international waters. Papua New Guinea is included, even though it became independent in 1965.
2. The events selected should cover the broad spectrum of the UFO phenomenon (CE3, CE2, CE1, DD, NL). But emphasis should be placed on instrumented sightings and physical traces, i.e. on cases least subject to witness misinterpretation.
3. The exact number of cases selected is not important. But all should be well documented (or have potential to be so). The ideal case would have independent reliable witnesses, be of long duration, and had been investigated initially without delay.

The following 14 reports were judged to most closely fit the above criteria:

(1) PORT MORESBY DD (PHOTO), 1953, noon. Mr. Drury, Deputy Director of Civil Aviation (Papua N.G.), filmed a disk that rose out of a cloud, turned abruptly and zoomed off at speed. He sent the film to the RAAF, who sent it to the U.S. for analysis. The film was returned to Drury with the best frames missing.

(2) GOULBURN RADAR-VISUAL, NSW 31/8/54 (2130). Lt. O'Farrell was flying a Sea Fury fighter to Nowra. Bright spinning lights appeared off both wing tips. Radar on the plane, and at Nowra naval airbase both picked up blips close to the plane. Navy Minister Francis confirmed the sighting on 17/12/54.

(3) BOIANI MISSION CE1 (CE3?), PAPUA, 26/6/59 (2 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours) and 27/6 (1 hour). On the first night, Rev. Gill and 37 Papuans saw a bright light approach. It hovered; a blue light shone out at intervals. Men were seen moving on the top deck. The next night, the UFO oscillated when lit up by torch, and the UFO men waved back at the observers.

(4) CRESSY CE1, TAS, 4/10/60, 1810 (2 minutes). Rev Browning, his wife and other independent witnesses saw a cigar (100m long) slowly fly by and pause. Several small discs shot out of clouds and approached the mother ship. All craft then reversed and moved into clouds. The RAAF explanation was moonrise and squally clouds.

(5) WILLOW GROVE, NEAR MOE, VIC, CE2/EM, 15/2/63, 0700.

Mr. Brew saw a spinning disc descend and hover over a tree and nearby magnetic(?) rock. Animals became agitated and refused to walk over the spot for a year. He got a migraine. CSIRO visited the site. The RAAF explanation was a tornado. (Brew's son only heard a bull-roarer noise).

ETON RIDGE, QLD, CE2, 24/5/65, 0005 (30 minutes).

Mr. Tilse (JP and a former pilot) and two others saw a disc hover over trees, lighting up the ground. The UFO moved about, approaching the hotel twice (as close as 200m). The witnesses and police later found a flattened browned area of grass 15m in diameter.

(7) BOUGAINVILLE REEF, OFF QLD, CE1 (PHOTO), 28/5/65, 0325. (10 minutes)

Mr. Orr, pilot of an Ansett DC6 Brisbane-to-Port Moresby flight, and two crew, saw a round ball with vapour trail pace the plane. He took photos. These and the DCA tapes from Townsville airport were allegedly seized by the Government.

(8) EURAMO, NEAR TULLY, QLD, CE2, 19/1/66, 0900. Mr. Pedley saw a spinning object rise with a loud hiss out of Horseshoe Lagoon. He found a flattened nest of dead, uprooted reeds (10m in diameter; swirled clockwise) floating in the lagoon. The RAAF suggested a willy-willy or water spout.

(9) BURKES FLAT, VIC, CE2, 4/4/66 (c1950). Businessman Mr. Sullivan saw a conical light in a field. As he drove by, the headlights of the car bent in the direction of the light. Only quick thinking prevented a crash. Two nights later, Mr. Taylor died in a car crash at the same site. Next day, Sullivan and a reporter found a unusual depression in the paddock (confirmed by police.)

(10) CLAYTON, VIC, CE2, 6/4/66, c1100 (20 minutes). Science teacher Mr. Greenwood and many students at Westall High School saw a silver object move about the sky and descend behind trees. It rose and played tag with several light aircraft. A local man and students later found a flattened area of grass (10m in diameter). The man alleges he was ordered from the site by 'the military'. Soon after the field was burnt.

(11) WODONGA, VIC, CE3, 24/8/67, 1700 (a few minutes). A motorcyclist, 22, was engulfed by a white flash. He saw a disc hover near the ground, 30m away. Two figures, clad in silver suits with fishbowl helmets beckoned, and stepped forward. He sped off in panic. The object followed his bike.

(12) KARAWINNA, VIC, CE2, 25/9/76, 2320 (7 minutes). Four persons in a car saw a flashing red object in a field. It took off, hovered, and slowly flew away. The witnesses drove after it until the lights switched off. Later, a brown area (30m in diameter and devoid of hay) was found at the liftoff site. The site had not been strongly heated or irradiated (thermoluminescent study).

(13) BEN BOYD NATIONAL PARK, NSW, DD (FILM), 23/10/76, 1600 (minutes). Three youths on a cliff-top saw several discs hovering out to sea. They took a movie film and still photos, and then they turned to film the eclipse of the sun. After the eclipse had passed, the UFOs were no longer in sight. GSW computer enhancement failed to identify the images.

(14) ORANGE, NSW, CE2, 26/5/77, 0000. On hearing animal noises, a youth saw lights on the ground 90 m away from the house. His mother (investigating) saw an oblong orange glow containing 'windows' moving over a hill. Later, four indentations arranged in a trapezoid were found at the site. The site had not been strongly heated or irradiated.

Other UFO events of note mentioned were: (15) Boyup Brook W.A. CE2/carstop, single witness (1967); (16) Frankston Vic CE3? mental communication/repeater psychic single witness (1972); (17) NW Cape WA CE1 multiple military witnesses (1973); (18) Mt. Magnet-Meekathara WA flap (1973); (19) Tyringham NSW flap (1973); (20) Kimba SA CE3 multiple independent witnesses imagery case (1973); and (21) Nebo QLD CE2 (5 witnesses; detailed RAAF study of trace).

COMMENTS: Not one of the 14 reports in the main list can be considered water-tight, particularly in terms of documents currently available to ACUFOS. In six cases, there is only a single witness to the main visual event (1,2,5,8,9,11), i.e. the complete details of the visual event are not independently checkable. Of these, 5 (Moe) and 11 (Wodonga) are weakest as evidence. The other 4 cases are of more value either because the single witness is highly reliable, or because physical traces or an instrumented reading was recorded. Wodonga was chosen as representative of an entity case, and Moe because of the physiological effects; there seems to be none in these categories better documented in Australia.

Note that no WA or SA case is included in the main list. Nor is any case between 1968 and 1975. By contrast in two sets of cases (6-7 and 9-10) one event took place within days of the other and in the same state.

I welcome comments on the above selection, or of cases missed, by June 30 (c/- P.O. Box 546 Gosford 2250 NSW). Please advise me if you have significant documentation on any of these cases in your files; and if you are willing to help write up individual cases for the ACUFOS document.

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Historical Reports in Australia - Part 2

by Bill Chalker.

If the "Memorandum Book" of one Fred W. Birmingham is to be believed, then Parramatta in 1868, played host to a most peculiar "machine to go through the air". Mr. Birmingham, a local surveyor described how on the night of July 25th, 1868, after a strange procession of visions, he observed an "ark" moving slowly through the sky. The object moved in an horizontal manner, then made a rapid descent in the opposite direction, finally curving to the east. The surveyor then felt a "presence" - a "spirit" - beside him, which "appeared like a neutral tint shade and the shape of a man in his usual frock dress". According to the account, this "spirit" allegedly asked of Birmingham, "Have you a desire or do you wish to enter upon it (the ark)!" Birmingham replied in the affirmative and both were carried gently through the air to where the object had landed in nearby Parramatta Park. The "peculiar shapings" of the "ark" (as he referred to it) were "well impressed" on Birmingham's mind. "... The colour seemed to blend with faint, flitting shades of steel blue below and appearing tremulous and like one might term magnified scales on a large fish... (but without) the shape of anything that has life." The "spirit" led the way, into a room on the "ark", which Birmingham described as a "pilot house". In this room there was only a large table, with space all around it. The "spirit" gave the surveyor some papers, saying: "It is absolutely necessary that you should know these things, but, you can study them as you go on". He saw only one page, which contained the equation, $V=550 + (500\sqrt{A})$, and then realised that he was alone. Birmingham then said, "So I fell, I suppose, into my usual sleeping state, waking next morning, deeply impressed with that vision of the night...." Some time later, in January 1869, while trying to solve an engineering problem, Birmingham was surprised to find in a book, the equation he had seen six months earlier, in the strange "ark". While this curious account may seem ridiculous, aspects of it are germane to the contemporary UFO claims of "contact". (7)

In 1879, Mr. S. Worsley Clifton, Collector of Customs at Freemantle, W.A., forwarded the following account of a "remarkable meteor" to R.J. Elleig, of the Melbourne observatory. Elleig in turn passed it on to "Nature", which published the report in their June 5th, 1879 edition (Vol.20, pg.121). The event occurred on February 1st of the same year.

"A small black cloud on a clear day appeared in the east travelling not very swiftly towards the NW, which burst into a ball of fire with an apparent disc the size of the full moon, blood-red in colour; It left a train of black or dark-coloured vapour across the heavens which was visible for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour. No sound was heard, sky perfectly clear, and the thermometer, 100 degrees F, in the shade." (8)

The following account may not be relevant to the UFO subject, but it has been included because of frequent inclusion of the story in a number of UFO books none of which have documented it in any detail. Thirteen members of the crew of the "H.M.S. Bacchante", saw "a strange light, as if of a phantom vessel all aglow", at 4 o'clock on the morning of June 11th, 1881, while at sea between Melbourne and Sydney. The eerie encounter was recorded by one of the midshipmen - none other than the Duke of York (who later reigned as King George of England from 1910-1936) - in a diary, and can be found in the book, "Cruise of the Bacchante" a work compiled from the journals of King George. The Duke of York was serving with his brother, Prince Albert Victor, on H.M.S. Bacchante's round-the-world voyage between 1879 and 1882. The strange light has been described as a "phantom ship" or a "Celestial object". Here is the account. Decide for yourself what it was:

"In the midst of the red light, the masts, spars and sails of a brig two hundred yards distant stood out in strong relief as she came up on the port bow. The lookout in the forecandle reported her as close to the bow, while also the officer of the watch from the bridge clearly saw her. So did the quarter deck midshipman, who was sent forward at once to the forecandle; but on arriving was no vestige or sign of any material ship. The night was clear and the sea calm. Thirteen persons altogether saw her. Two other ships of the squadron, the Tourmaline and the Cleopatra, who were off our starboard bow, asked whether we had seen the

strange red light." (9).

During the 1890s, "ghost lights" were frequently observed moving along the roads and about the countryside in South Australia. Farmers at Orroro and Cornish copper miners at Moonta, often mistook these small, detached lights for bicycle lamps at a distance. But once they were observed at closer range, only a white light source could be discernible. Sometimes, two lights could be seen together. Many attempts were made to catch the elusive lights as they moved about at fence level. These attempts were no more successful than they are today. After a few years, the reports of the elusive lights in this remote area of South Australia seemed to die out. (10)

An anecdote handed down within a farming family, told of an extraordinary UFO story, alleged to have occurred in 1893, in central NSW. A farmer claimed that a saucer - shaped aerial object landed in a paddock on his property. As he approached the object, a man in strange clothing emerged from it. The farmer walked towards the being - perhaps making some sort of threatening gesture - and the stranger shone some kind of torch at him. The farmer was thrown to the ground and was stunned. When he regained consciousness, the man and the object had gone. His hand, where the torch beam had hit him, was allegedly paralysed for life. Bizarre as the story seems, similar encounters with UFOs would be reported in the years following World War II, many of which would be well documented. As far as documentation for this particular story is concerned, the details were passed on to the late Dr. Mirian Lindtner, a President of the UFO Investigation Centre (now known as UFO Research NSW) and no records of it have been extant after his accidental death in Germany during August 1969. (11)

During 1902, the month of November played host to an incredible array of "fireball" reports throughout much of eastern Australia. "An electrical fire ball" started a fire near the shaft of the new Barambagie mine, a man in Harris Park in Sydney was knocked unconscious and left partially paralysed when a "fireball" exploded above him and fireballs the size of houses were reported from many different locations. The following report of November 20th, was probably the most interesting of that period. It appears to describe a "daylight disc". At 9.27 am, "a remarkable phenomenon was witnessed in the heavens by Mr. Griffiths, the assistant astronomer, and others", at the Adelaide Observatory. "Two officers were taking weather observations, when they noticed a brilliant globular light having a planetary disc. It appeared SSE, at an altitude of about 45 degrees. It moved slowly northwards, passing within 15-20 degrees of the sun, and was brightly visible till 9.31 - 4 minutes in all. Mr. Griffiths, who observed it for a minute, states that it covered about 20 degrees of an arc in that time. The object appeared like Venus does when it is at its greatest brilliancy soon after sunset. Mr. Griffiths lost sight of the meteoric object at an altitude of 45 Degrees above the horizon. Other observers say it travelled at least 90 degrees and was lost sight of, in the great glare of the sky. When it was near to the prime vertical it became elongated and took an elliptical form, the long axis lying south to north," (12)

For a few weeks during July and August 1909, in New Zealand and then Australia, a wave of "aerialitis" - sightings of unusual nocturnal lights and "airships" - occurred. Observations were particularly intense in New Zealand, with "airship operators" being reported at Kelso, Gore, Kaikora, Point Molyneux, Clinton and Marlborough Sound. The Gore report took place on July 30th. At about 5 a.m., 2 men working on the Syndicate No.2 dredge on a river in the Waikaka Valley, a few miles north of Gore, observed strange lights approaching through the mist. The men could make out a narrow boat-shaped aerial craft, with two figures sitting in it. The object circled the dredge several times, making "curious and seemingly impossible manoeuvres." It would travel at speed then suddenly decelerate. Eventually it disappeared into the mist, leaving a yellow glare behind. (13)

(To be continued in next issue).

Activities of the Australian Entity Study Group.

There has been little for the Australian Entity Study Group to do during the last twelve months owing to the lack of such reports occurring/being reported within Australia. If there are any reports known to ACUFOS member organisations the AESG would certainly like to hear from you c/o 3 Park Lake Drive Wynn Vale S.A.

As you will probably be aware a series of nine "Case Documents" was prepared and published in 1978-80 by the AESG. These provided details of both old and current cases for dissemination of the facts concerning the events. Copies of these are now only available as photocopies, due to the finish of the original print run.

The last major undertaking of the group was the production of "An indepth review of Australasian UFO related entity reports", by Keith Basterfield, which was published by ACUFOS in June 1980. This work reviewed the collection of 105 entity cases and concentrated on providing details on 67 type A events. Together with an analysis of the 67 reports, this 110 page document is currently available from ACUFOS as order number D3, price Australian \$12.

UFO Research Australia Newsletter - (UFORAN).

UFO Research Australia Newsletter is a magazine presenting to the public thoroughly researched articles on every possible aspect of UFO research and complete documentation of sightings including constructive speculation. The serious minded researcher is provided with an intelligent, objective publication outlet. In the interest of broadening knowledge and outlook on the UFO phenomena, overseas as well as local researchers are encouraged to submit articles for publication consideration. The magazine originates in Australia but through Australian and overseas correspondents it presents all the news on UFO events throughout the world.

UFORAN is patronised by investigators as a valuable source of thoroughly researched, and therefore credible information that is an invaluable ingredient in the interpretation of global patterns.

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New Publications from ACUFOS.

D7-IN SEARCH OF A SUBJECT: AN AUSTRALIAN SEARCH FOR EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE
145 pages \$10(Australian)

D8-INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL FOR UFOLOGISTS-how to set up your own
information retrieval system - 52 pages \$5 (Australian)

ACUFOS BIBLIOGRAPHY SERVICE - Messages From Earth, by John Prytz.

One theme of this Bibliography service has been communication between man and some alien "other", where "other" has to date been dolphins and "artificial intelligence". Another "other" could well be "extraterrestrial intelligence". Almost all of what has been written about contact and/or communication with extraterrestrials has had man on the receiving end (i.e. CE3K, SETI, extraterrestrial invasion, etc). But man has not been totally passive. Apart from "leakage" into space of the products of our technology which ETI could intercept by accident, there has been several attempts of a designed nature on the part of mankind to advertise his presence. This bibliography documents three such attempts, the Pioneer 10/11 plaques, Voyager 1/2 recordings, and the Arecibo radio message.

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